

REMARKS

Claims 6-21, 23 and 25 are pending in this application. For purposes of expedition, dependent claims 22 and 24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and their limitations have been incorporated into their respective base claims 6 and 13 in order to place all claims in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 23 and 25, as previously depend upon claims 22 and 24, have been amended to depend upon the now allowed base claims 6 and 13 for proper dependency.

On page 5 of the Office Action (Paper No. 4), claims 22-25 have been indicated as being conditionally allowed if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their respective base claims 6 and 13. The Examiner's indication of allowability of these claims is noted with appreciation. As discussed, claims 22 and 24 have been canceled and incorporated into base claims 6 and 13 in order to place in condition for allowance.

The abstract of the disclosure has been objected to because the abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details. According to the Examiner, the abstract does describe the invention disclosed in the parent application, but does not describe the invention disclosed in the current (divisional) application. Actually, the original abstract not only accurately describes the invention disclosed in the parent application, as acknowledged by the Examiner, but also the invention as disclosed in the current (divisional) application. This is because claims 6-25 as pending in the current application are the same set of claims presented in the parent application, but were withdrawn from consideration due to the Restriction Requirement issued therein. Moreover, base claims 6 and 13 have been amended to incorporate the

subject matter of claims 22 and 24, which describes the process presented in the abstract. Therefore, in view of the foregoing explanations and the proposed amendments of base claims 6 and 13, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the abstract be withdrawn.

Lastly, claims 6-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Draves et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,802,590 in view of Clifton et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,469,556 for reasons stated on pages 3-4 of the Office Action (Paper No. 4). While Applicants disagree with the Examiner's assessment of Draves '590 and Clifton '556, base claims 6 and 13 have been amended, for purposes of expedition, to incorporate all limitations of allowed claims 22 and 24 in order to render the rejection moot and to place all claims in condition for allowance.

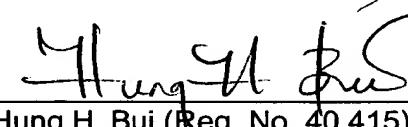
In view of the foregoing amendments, arguments and remarks, all claims 6-21, 23 and 25 are now deemed to be allowable and this application is believed to be in condition to be passed to issue. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' attorney at the Washington DC area office at (703) 312-6600. Applicants respectfully reserve all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any or all previously claimed limitations/features which have been amended or canceled, or to any or all limitations/features not yet claimed, i.e., Applicants have no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of the disclosed invention to the public.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage of fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, No. 01-2135 (Application No. 500.35615VX1), and please credit any excess fees to said deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

By



Hung H. Bui (Reg. No. 40,415)
Attorney for Applicant(s)

HHB:btd

1300 North Seventeenth Street, Suite 1800
Arlington, Virginia 22209
Tel.: (703) 312-6600
Fax: (703) 312-6666